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<http://www.wnep.com/wnep-susq-epa-delivers-water-to-dimock-20120120,0,7596463.story>

EPA Delivers Water to Dimock

By Stacy Lange

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The federal government started providing fresh drinking water Friday to homes in the Dimock area. Those homes are suspected of having contaminated well water, which residents blame on gas drilling.

The EPA arranged to have water delivered to a handful of homes.

The residents on Carter Road in Dimock have been without consistent fresh water deliveries since December. That's when the state department of environmental protection allowed Cabot Oil and Gas to stop water deliveries, saying the well water was safe to drink. Federal regulators have since questioned those findings and are now delivering water to four homes on Carter Road.

It was a welcome sight said residents in Dimock, when a tanker truck from a company in Northampton County and federal government officials rolled onto Carter Road in Dimock.

The water will go to four families there who for two months now have relied on bottled water. There has been constant questions of whether or not their well water is contaminated.

"They tried to tell us it was good, and they put us back on it, but now they say it's not good, and they're putting us back on the buffaloes but we've been bathing our kids in it," said Carter Road resident William Horn.

About a dozen demonstrators welcomed the water trucks, praising the federal environmental protection agency for stepping in. The EPA will start its own water tests next week to see if natural gas drilling in the area has contaminated the wells, something the residents have thought all along.

"Our ultimate goal is to get a water line. We need water. This temporarily bringing water is, I can't live like this for the rest of my life. We need something more permanent," said Carter Road resident Julie Sautner.

EPA officials haven't told the people on Carter Road how long they will do water deliveries, or if more homes will get water in the future. The residents said it's still progress. State officials, who had previously said the well water was safe, are now going to run tests too.

"I feel like they sided right in with Cabot, and it kind of hurt us because DEP, environmental protection, I thought they were here to protect us too," said Carter Road resident Ron Carter.

Cabot Oil and Gas insists its drilling has not contaminated the water.

NewsWatch 16 learned late Friday afternoon the state department of environmental protection will help federal officials sample water at 57 homes in Dimock Township, something the state has not done yet.